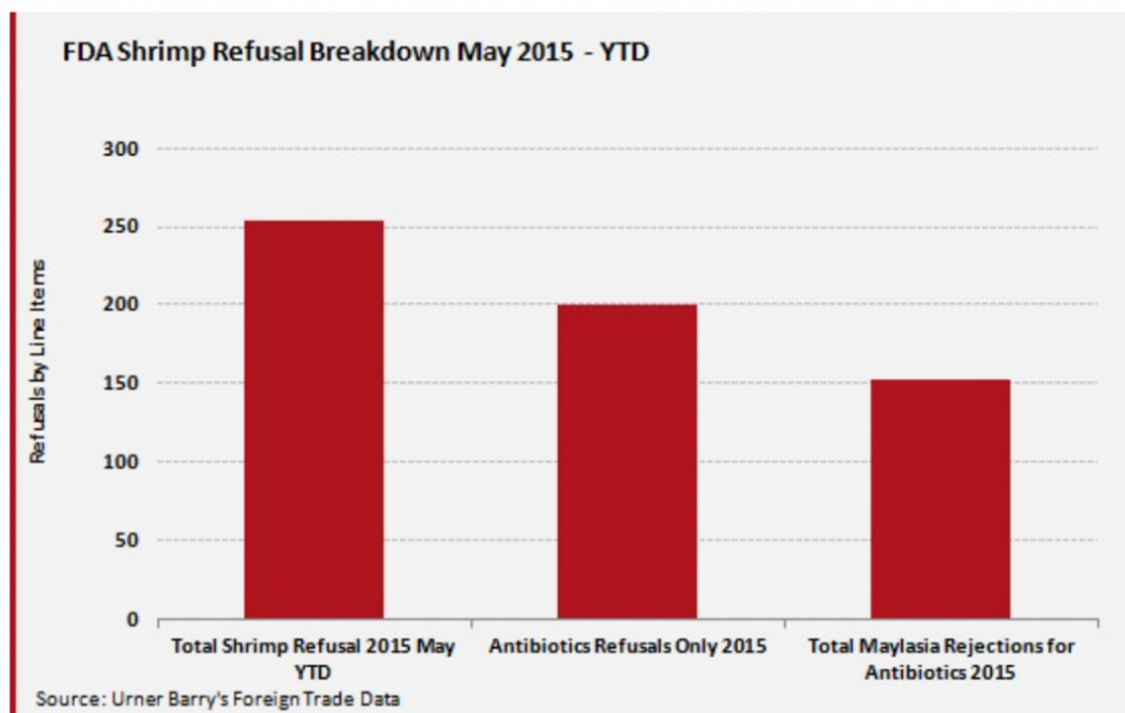


Antibiotics responsible for 80% of FDA's 2015 shrimp refusals; Malaysia still chief violator

The US Food and Drug Administration's (FDA) imported shrimp refusals continue to trend far higher in 2015 over last year, driven by a massive increase in the FDA's rejection of Malaysian shipments for antibiotic residues.

A total of 254 shrimp shipments have been refused entry to the US market through the end of May, a 180% increase in rejections compared to the same time last year. About 80% of these refusals have been due to illegal antibiotic residues in the shipments.



Malaysian imports have led the charge in this year's higher refusal figures, mostly for illegal antibiotic residues. As of May, Malaysia was responsible for 60% of the FDA's total imported shrimp rejections; 90% of which came due to banned antibiotics found in the imports.

Malaysia's higher rejections happen at time when the country is shipping a good deal more shrimp to the market. In April, Malaysian shrimp shipments the US were up 35%.

Independent seafood testing labs have said FDA inspectors are taking a harder look at antibiotic residues in imported shrimp this year, closer to levels seen five years ago. Malaysia aside, the FDA rejected more than double the amount of shrimp imports from major suppliers India and Vietnam through May.

Refusals specifically for antibiotics were up 240% and accounted for over three-fourths of India and Vietnam's total shrimp shipments denied to the US market.

The takeaway here is the FDA's crackdown on illegal antibiotic residues in shrimp continued to push up refusals through May. While major suppliers have seen their rejections increase, the bulk of refusals is still driven by Malaysian product.

A case could be made that Malaysian shrimp has been caught up in the FDA's stiffer antibiotic inspections in the same year the country's exporters started to increase their market share in the US.

Source : http://www.undercurrentnews.com/2015/06/10/antibiotics-responsible-for-80-of-fdas-2015-shrimp-refusals-malaysia-still-chief-violator/?utm_source=Undercurrent+News+Alerts&utm_campaign=a98458f909-Aquaculture_roundup_Jun_15_2015&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_feb55e2e23-a98458f909-92423501